



## *Dangers of the deep*

*When most people think of dangers in the sea, they think of sharks. In fact, shark attacks are almost unheard of in Seychelles. There are however, a few other marine animals that have defense strategies which do pose some hazard, and divers, snorkellers and reef walkers should exercise caution to avoid a run-in with them.*

*Cone shells usually bury themselves in the sand and under rocks during the day, coming out at night to feed on other molluscs, worms or fish. The venomous dart they use to kill their prey is poisonous; never pick one of these shells up.*

*Venomous fish like the well camouflaged stonefish (Laf) and the **clearfin lionfish (Pwason arme)** have poison in their spines as a defense against predators. Their stings are painful and can lead to collapse and even, occasionally, death.*

*The sting of fire corals is used to capture prey but can cause swimmers severe pain and inflammation lasting several days if brushed against.*

*Avoid brushing against the long sharp spines of black sea urchins (Lantanyen); they can penetrate deeply into the flesh and cause long-lasting inflammation.*

*The sharp spines of the **crown of thorns starfish** which eat coral, can cause a lot of pain and long-lasting inflammation.*

